

## **Program Overview and Purpose**

The Idaho Scenic Byways Program serves two functions: (1) to promote the scenic, historic, and backcountry byways of Idaho, and (2) to provide funding for tourist amenities, kiosks, and signs that will assist the traveler on the byways. The statewide brochure *Taking the Scenic Route: A guide to Idaho's Scenic Byways* as well as individual byway brochures, audio tapes, web-pages, and other informational documents serves the former function. Project requests from local byway groups are submitted annually to serve the latter.

Needs are determined by corridor management plans (CMP) developed for the byways, or community interest groups' goals in lieu of a corridor management plan. Development of a corridor management plan is encouraged before any other project is initiated on a scenic, historic, or backcountry byway.

## **Eligible Projects and the Application Process**

The project must be on a highway or local road designated as a scenic, historic, or backcountry byway. Eligible projects include the following:

- Developing and implementing a corridor management plan
- Safety improvements required as a result of scenic byway designation
- Pedestrian/bicyclist facilities, rest areas, turnouts, highway shoulder improvements, passing lanes, overlooks, and interpretive facilities
- Enhancing access to an area for recreation purposes
- Protecting scenic, historic, recreation, cultural, natural, and archaeological resources
- Developing and providing tourist information; including interpretive exhibits/kiosks, brochures, audio/video tapes
- Developing and implementing a scenic byway marketing program.

For those interested in applying for Scenic Byway money, go to [www.bywaysonline.org](http://www.bywaysonline.org). As of this printing the application process had not yet become available for FY 2005 funding.

After ITD receives project applications, the Scenic Byways Advisory Committee reviews them to determine their eligibility. Normally, this review occurs in May. The projects are then prioritized and submitted to the Idaho Transportation Board in June for approval. Following Board approval they are then submitted to the Federal Highway Administration by June 30. Scenic Byway grant applications from all across the nation are reviewed by the Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C. Finally; a selection committee in Washington, D.C. decides which projects are funded. Projects approved for funding are announced after October 1. Since reauthorization of the transportation bill has not yet been signed into law, the FY 2005 schedule for the Scenic Byway application process is yet to be determined. Once a project is awarded, however, its management rests with the District where it is located.

Applicants are advised that projects approved for funding must be developed in accordance with ITD's formal procedures for federal-aid projects using ITD's manual "Guidelines for Local Agency Projects". Before submitting a Scenic Byway application, applicants are encouraged to contact their District office for information on the Project Development process.

Interested parties should direct their inquiries to Garry Young at 334-8214 ([gyoung@itd.state.id.us](mailto:gyoung@itd.state.id.us)) or the ITD District Planner in their district.

District 1	Sean Hoisington	772-1274
District 2	Kevin Lilly	799-4234
District 3	Sue Sullivan	334-8955
District 4	Bob Humphrey	886-7832
District 5	Judy Harmon	239-3369
District 6	Lance Holmstrom	745-5608

### **Funding and Matching Requirements**

Funding for scenic, historic, or backcountry byways is available through the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Scenic Byways Program. Unlike other special programs that designate, by state, an amount of available funding, the Scenic Byways Program is labeled "discretionary," meaning that all projects nationwide compete equally for funding. In fiscal year 2004 the program's funding level was \$26.5 million. Idaho received \$175,000.

Scenic byway funding requires at least a 20-percent match and is a "reimbursement" program, meaning funds must first be expended before reimbursement occurs.

A special feature of Scenic Byway funding is that federal land management agency funds can be used as the matching share for a project located along a public road that provided access to or is within Federal or Indian land. Other eligible match funds include state funds, local government funds and private sector donations to the state. In-Kind donations are also allowed based on the chart below:

<b>In-Kind Donation</b>	<b>Private Entity</b>	<b>Local Government</b>	<b>State Government</b>	<b>Federal Agency</b>
Property or Materials	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed
Services	Allowed	Not allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed

While government services (labor) and property (in the case of Federal agencies) may not be donated or credited toward the match, a government agency can be reimbursed for up to 80 percent of its expenses, including salaries, directly related to the scenic byway project.